

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of backside navigation comprising:  
milling a fine fiducial opening through a substrate with a charged particle beam; and  
5        endpointing said fine fiducial opening upon delineating a trench isolation structure.
  
2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
acquiring an image of said delineated trench isolation structure with said charged  
particle beam;  
10        receiving a reference image; and  
registering said acquired image and said reference image.
  
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein said reference image comprises a  
computer aided design layout image.  
15
  
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein endpoint said fine fiducial opening  
comprises:  
imaging a floor of said fine fiducial opening with said charged particle beam;  
detecting a voltage contrast indicating said fine fiducial opening has reached said  
20        trench isolation structure; and  
stopping said milling of said fine fiducial opening upon detecting said voltage  
contrast.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein a width of said fine fiducial opening is substantially sufficient to expose the width of said trench isolation structure.

5        6. A method of backside navigation comprising:  
forming a fiducial opening, wherein a portion of a trench isolation structure is delineated;  
acquiring an image of said delineated portion of said trench isolation structure;  
registering said acquired image and a reference image; and  
10       generating position control information as a function of said registered acquired image and said reference image.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said reference image comprises a computer aided design layout image.

15

8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein forming said fiducial opening comprises:  
forming a coarse fiducial opening, wherein a static device region is delineated;  
depositing an oxide layer in said coarse fiducial opening; and  
20       forming a fine fiducial opening in said coarse fiducial opening, wherein said portion of said trench isolation structure is delineated

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein forming said fiducial opening further comprises:

imaging a boundary of said well region to detect a doping deviation in said well region indicative of a presence of said trench isolation structure; and

5       milling said fine fiducial opening substantially at said detected doping deviation.

10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein forming said fiducial opening further comprises:

thinning a substrate prior to forming said fiducial opening; and

10       imaging said substrate to detect said static device region.

11. The method according to Claim 6, further comprising:

making a fiducial marking proximate said fiducial opening; and

15       maintaining said registration of said acquired image and said reference image as a function of said fiducial marking.

12. The method according to Claim 6, wherein registering said acquired image and said reference image comprises:

20       generating a cross correlation image as a function of said acquired image and said reference image;

oversampling said cross correlation image;

determining an offset of said oversampled cross correlation image; and

aligning said reference image and said acquired image according to said offset.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein registering said acquired image and said reference image further comprises:

preprocessing said acquired image, wherein preprocessing comprises one or more  
5 processes consisting of rotation adjustment, magnification adjustment, intensity adjustment and filtering.

14. The method according to Claim 12, further comprising:

forming a plurality of fiducial openings, wherein each fiducial opening delineates a  
10 separate portion of a trench isolation structure within a field of view;

acquiring an image of each said delineated portion of said trench isolation structure;

registering said image of each delineated portion of said trench isolation structure to a  
corresponding trench isolation structure in a portion of a trench mask corresponding to said  
field of view; and

15 generating position control information as a function of said registered acquired  
images and said portion of said trench mask.

15. A method of forming a backside marker in an integrated circuit comprising:

forming a coarse fiducial opening;

20 forming a fine fiducial opening in said coarse fiducial opening, wherein said fine  
fiducial opening delineates a portion of a trench isolation structure.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said coarse fiducial opening delineates a static device region.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein said static device region comprises a well region.

18. The method according to Claim 15, wherein a focused ion beam milling process is utilized to form said fine fiducial opening.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein forming said fine fiducial opening comprises:

milling at a first focused ion beam current;

milling at a second focused ion beam current as said fine fiducial opening approaches said trench isolation structure, wherein said second focused beam current is less than said first focused ion beam current;

imaging said fine fiducial opening at said second focused ion beam current to detect a first voltage contrast indicative of said fine fiducial opening reaching said trench isolation structure; and

stopping said milling upon detection of said first voltage contrast.

20. The method according to Claim 15, wherein forming said coarse fiducial opening comprises:

imaging said integrated circuit to detect a position of a static device region;

milling at said first focused ion beam current;

milling at said second focused ion beam as said coarse fiducial opening approaches  
said static device region;

imaging said coarse fiducial opening at said second focused ion beam current to

5 detect a second voltage contrast indicative of said coarse fiducial opening reaching said static  
device region; and

stopping said milling upon detection of said second voltage contrast.

21. The method according to Claim 15, further comprising forming an initial  
10 opening, wherein said coarse fiducial opening will be formed in said initial opening.